

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11 and 12 are amended herein, and new claim 13 is added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-13 are currently pending and under consideration.

**II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TAGER ET AL. (USP 2004/0208608)**

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1 (as amended herein) relates to a method comprising, "a first dispersion compensation step of compensating for a dispersion included in the wavelength multiplexed optical signal having propagated in the divisional repeating interval on the terminal apparatus side for transmission so that a remaining dispersion amount is within a tolerance set in advance," "an optical add/drop multiplexing step of performing an optical add/drop multiplexing for each of wavelength components of the wavelength multiplexed optical signal for which the dispersion compensation has been performed at the first dispersion compensation step," and "a second dispersion compensation step of performing a dispersion compensation with an additional compensation amount to the compensation amount of the first dispersion compensation step for the wavelength multiplexed optical signal for which the optical add/drop multiplexing has been performed at the optical add/drop multiplexing step, said additional compensation amount is a predetermined constant times a total dispersion amount occurred in the divisional repeating intervals on the terminal apparatus side for transmission."

The method in claim 1 further recites, "the ratio of the additional compensation amount at the second dispersion compensation step to the sum of the dispersion compensation amounts at the first and second dispersion compensation steps being set so as to gradually vary together with the transmission distance from said terminal apparatus for transmission at which said repeating apparatus is disposed on said light transmission line."

Tager et al. ("Tager") discloses in FIG. 2B, dispersion compensation measures 113A-113E that correspond to section band pre-and-post-compensators. Together with the optical propagation medium of the link, the dispersion compensation measures 113A-113E comprise the dispersion section between the nodes (see paragraph 0031). Tager also discloses an exact

compensation scheme (FIG. 3), an under-compensation scheme (FIG. 4), and a sectionalized dispersion compensation scheme (FIG. 5). According to the under-compensation scheme, dispersion is pre-and-post-compensated and line compensators have an absolute dispersion value smaller than that of the preceding span (see paragraph 0033).

Tager merely discloses that two line compensators (for example, dispersion compensation measures 113B and 113C) respectively perform pre-compensation and post-compensation, and that the two line compensators in cooperation with each other perform a dispersion compensation having an absolute dispersion value smaller than that of the preceding span.

Therefore, Tager discloses a dispersion compensation architecture which is different from the present invention because Tager is silent regarding the claimed features of “a first dispersion compensation step,” “an optical add/drop multiplexing step,” and “a second dispersion compensation step” (see claim 1 of the present invention).

Similar to claim 1, independent claim 7 (as amended herein) recites the features of “a first dispersion compensation section,” “an optical add/drop multiplexing section,” and “a second dispersion compensation section,” which are not disclosed or suggested in Tager reference. Therefore, it is submitted that Tager is also silent regarding the features as recited in claim 7 of the present invention.

Dependent claims 2-6 (depending from claim 1) and 8-12 (depending from claim 7) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, and further, are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from independent claims 1 and 7.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

### **III. NEW CLAIM**

New independent claim 13 is added and describes similar features as independent claim 1. Therefore, new claim 13 also distinguishes over the cited prior art.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.


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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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